

# Adequate signs at Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) refers to the letter "When it is an offence to enter a forest reserve" (*The Star*, Dec 21). One of the issues raised in the letter was the absence of signage on entry restriction to the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve (HSAH) by the public.

The Selangor Forestry Department (JPNS) of the Central Selangor district conducted an integrated forest enforcement operation on Nov 21 last year at the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve (HSAH) involving agencies from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan), police and several other enforce-

ment agencies. The operation involved several areas of permanent forest reserves in Selangor to curb forest offences, particularly illegal entry into the permanent forest reserves.

During the operation conducted in HSAH, JPNS detained 14 civilians and recorded their statements for further action. The aim of the operation was to curb trespassing activities at HSAH which have become rampant.

It should be noted that JPNS has put up signage on entry restrictions at the HSAH forest areas. The Faculty of Forestry, UPM has also put up signage at strategic locations often used

by the public. HSAH is owned by the Selangor State Government, and entrusted to JPNS and UPM as permit holders who are authorised to carry out activities related to education, research and development in the field of forestry. Issues related to enforcement, land use and development of HSAH are under the purview of JPNS.

**PROF. DR. NOR KAMARIAH NOORDIN**  
**Director**  
**Corporate Strategy and Communications**  
**Universiti Putra Malaysia**